

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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S E C R E T STATE 201267

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
EXDIS // FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 AND 2

TAGS: PBOR, XF, IS, LE, UNSC

SUBJECT: LEBANON: IMMINENT ISRAELI MOVES

1. WHILE AWAITING YOUR MESSAGE MENTIONED FEW MINUTES AGO ON TELEPHONE, BELIEVE YOU RECOGNIZE THAT WE MAY HAVE TO GO TO LENGTHS OF EXTREMELY STRONG PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE. SINCE THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE REPEATEDLY, WILL HAVE TO BE FAIRLY SURE THIS ACTION IS WARRANTED NOW. WE WILL, OF COURSE, WAIT TO ANALYZE YOUR MESSAGE BEFORE SETTING ANYTHING IN MOTION. IF YOU BELIEVE SITUATION MERITS PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE CALL DRAPER OR VELIOTES WITH MESSAGE THAT "SAM AGREES WITH YOUR PLANS."

2. IMPORTANCE OF INSERTION OF AT LEAST SOME LEBANESE FORCES INTO TIBNIN IS THAT -- IN THAT SCREWY SITUATION UP
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NORTH -- THE SYRIANS WILL BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY SATISFIED THAT THE WAY IS NOW OPEN FOR EVENTUALLY REPEAT EVENTUALLY NEUTRALIZING THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA ASSOCIATION WITH ISRAEL ALONG THE BORDERS, EVEN IF THE SYRIANS CANNOT BE THERE. THEY THEREFORE WOULD BE MORE PREPARED TO STRIKE DISENGAGEMENT DEAL IN THE BEIRUT AREA, FEELING AT LAST THAT THE SARKIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE ABLE EVENTUALLY TO SURVIVE AND

KEEP THE CHRISTIAN FORCES AND CHRISTIAN POLITICIAN IN BETTER
CHECK. LEBANESE MUSLIMS WOULD WELCOME EVEN TINY ASSERTION

OF GOL AUTHORITY AND PALESTINIANS MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN MORE
INDIRECT WAYS SINCE THEY WOULD VIEW SARKIS AS BETTER ALTER-
NATIVE THAN GROWTH IN MARONITE STRENGTHS WHICH OTHERWISE
WOULD OCCUR.

3. AFTER DICTATING ABOVE, ALERTED NSC. ALL OF US WOULD
LIKE ANY THOUGHTS AND ARGUMENTS WHICH WOULD BE PERSUASIVE
TO ISRAELIS. IN FACT, IF YOU HAVE TIME, SEND US A DRAFT.
NEWSOM

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